(d) if so, the points of agreements reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government attaches high priority to strengthening all round economic relations, including trade, with India's neighbours. Policy initiatives in this direction are evolved through inter-Ministerial consultations among the Ministry of External Affairs and the key economic Ministries, including Finance and Company Affairs, and Commerce & Industry.

(c) and (d) Government have a number of trade agreements with neighbouring countries, which are reviewed periodically.

Made-in-India fair in Kabul

3027. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the highlights of "Made-in-India" fair in Kabul;

(b) how many Indian firms had participated in the fair and whether foreign firms had also taken part;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) worth of business struck and future agreements entered into with the Government of Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Made-in-India show in Kabul, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries in September this year, was the first large scale single country industrial exhibition in Afghanistan since the establishment of Afghan Interim Administration last year. The exhibition was yet another manifestation of Indian commitment to the rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. It introduced the Indian capabilities in the field of commerce and industry to the Afghan leadership, people and the business community.

(b) to (d) 169 companies representing the cross-section of Indian industry participated in the fair. No foreign firms participated in the exhibition.

The exhibition helped in the establishment of network of contacts between the business communities of the two countries. It is felt that the

exhibition made a positive contribution in strengthening and expansion of trade ties between India and Afghanistan.

Demand to sign CTBT and NPT

3028. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Canada has urged Government to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has offered to mediate between India and Pakistan;

(b) whether Canada would like to assist India in exploiting nuclear energy for commercial purposes by opening the vast North American market; and

(c) if so, Government views in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The Canadian Government takes upon itself to urge all countries, including India, to become party to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Canada has not offered to mediate between India and Pakistan.

(b) No.

(c) Government's well-known stand is that India cannot accede to the NPT which is a discriminatory treaty. India will not stand in the way of entry into force of CTBT and remains committed to the endeavour of evolving a national consensus in support of accession to this Treaty.

Triangle of India-Iran-Afghanistan

†3029. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to form a triangle of India-Iran-Afghanistan to boost trade with Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.